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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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June 2, 2004

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Ms. Robin M. Nazzaro
Director, Natural Resources and Environment
General Accounting Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Ms. Nazzaro:

On May 11, 2004, you testified before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations in a hearing entitled "DOE Nuclear Security: What Are the Challenges and What's Next?" We now ask for your help on several additional questions (attached).

Because we wish to include the questions and responses in the printed record of this hearing, please respond no later than Friday, June 18, 2004. Please fax and e-mail the response. The faxed response should be directed to Peter Kielty, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Majority staff, at 202-226-2447, and Voncille Hines, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Minority staff, at 202-225-5288. The e-mail copy of the response should be directed to (Peter.Kielty@mail.house.gov) and Voncille Hines (Voncille.Hines@mail.house.gov). Due to the uncertainties of postal deliveries on Capitol Hill, we ask that your response not be sent through the postal service.

If you have any questions, please have your staff contact Edith Holleman, Minority Counsel, Committee on Energy and Commerce, at 202-226-3400.

Sincerely,


JOHN D. DINGELL
RANKING MEMBER

Attachment

Ms. Robin M. Nazzaro

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cc: The Honorable Joe Barton, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable James C. Greenwood, Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

The Honorable Peter Deutsch, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

**Questions for Robin Nazzaro, Director
Natural Resources and Environment, General Accounting Office
from the Honorable John D. Dingell
Committee on Energy and Commerce
regarding the May 11, 2004, Hearing entitled
“DOE Nuclear Security: What Are the Challenges and What’s Next?”**

1. Are there any critical dangers or vulnerabilities within the Department of Energy (DOE) weapons complex that must be fixed immediately and, if so, what are they? In terms of any proposed fixes, place these into context: For example, what needs to be fixed now, and what can be delayed, why, and for how long?
2. The Committee has received evidence of the need for specific improvements in security at specific sites on a repeated basis. For example, for years we have heard about the problems facing TA-18 at Los Alamos. What accountability measures need to be in place to actually see some of these projects through?
3. On May 7, 2004, the Secretary announced several “new” security initiatives. What is your reaction to this announcement? Were there any steps proposed that have not already been included in proposals by previous Secretaries? Is the Department taking any steps to make sure that these actions will actually be carried out?